REMARKS

Claim Amendments

Applicants have amended claim 7. Support for this amendment is found throughout the specification including in claims 1 and 4 as originally filed and at page 5, lines 10-21 and page 6, lines 15-23, for example.

Applicants have added new claim 12. Support for this claim is found throughout the specification including at page 18, line 32 to page 24, line 10.

These amendments do not add new matter and their entry is requested.

THE REJECTIONS

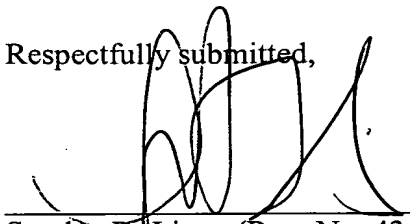
35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps. Applicants have amended claim 7 as requested by the Examiner to clarify the essential steps and elements Applicants have also added new claim 12, which recites the steps of the peptide bond formation. Commonly used peptide bond formation methods as described on pages 21-22 of the specification are used to afford the peptide bond. Accordingly, applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with applicants' representatives would assist the Examiner, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at anytime. Applicants request reconsideration of the application based on the amendments and remarks above.

Respectfully submitted,



Stanley D. Liang (Reg. No. 43,753)
Attorney for Applicants
Fish & Neave IP Group
ROPES & GRAY LLP
Customer No. 1473
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020
Phone: 212.596.9000
Fax: 212.596.9090